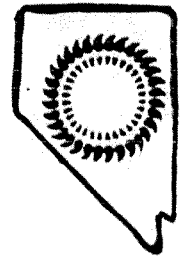


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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SYNOPSIS

December was a warm month over all of Nevada, with the northern 2/3 of the State also being wetter than normal. In fact, in Las Vegas it was the 4th warmest December since Airport records began in 1937, while Reno had the 10th warmest and the wettest 12th month since reliable records began in 1888.

1994-95 Water Year precipitation (Oct. 1, - Dec. 31, 1994) is almost non-existent in southern Nevada, (upstream Colorado River tributaries are generally near normal) while many locations in the northern 1/3 of the State have had a little above normal amounts. Extremes range from less than 5% of normal at several locations in the South to over 150% at Denio, Kings River Valley and Fort Bidwell nearby in California. East Slope Sierra Nevada watersheds have had between 1/2 and 2/3 of normal precipitation.

TEMPERATURE

During this unusually warm month temperatures averaged generally from 3-7 degrees above normal. No new monthly records were set, but this will be logged as one of the warmest Decembers on record and the 5th month in a row that most of Nevada has been warmer than normal. Extremes were not very, as maxima reached only into the mid-70's at several locations in the south, including Echo Bay(76), Overton(75), and Las Vegas(74). Not many locations fell below zero this mild month, with only -16 at Ruth, -9 at Vya and Charleston and -8 at Shoshone, Lund, and Reese River.

PRECIPITATION

December was a very wet month at many locations in the northern 2/3 of Nevada, while several southern weather stations had little or no rain/snow. For example, the Denio, Kings River Valley, Mina, and Dyer areas all had 3 to 4 times the normal December precipitation. On the dry side, Searchlight, Desert Rock, Las Vegas Spring Valley, and Amargosa Valley had none, with only .01" at Las Vegas and .04 at Overton. In the East Central Area Shoshone also had only .04".

The wettest reporting location was Verdi Peak near Reno, with 7.73" and 31" of snowfall. Warm storms precluded much snow, even at this 7500 foot elevation. In nearby California Alpine Meadows had a warm and wet 20.01" with only 37" of snow as rain plagued many ski areas. Most (12.03") of this fell on the 12th and 13th. Other wet spots at nearby California locations were Fort Bidwell (northwest of Vya in northwest Nevada) with 7.76", Kings Beach at Tahoe 7.28", 6.10" at the Christmas Tree on Mt. Rose, 6.09" at 7500 foot Upper Incline with 35" of snowfall, 5.15" at Stateline at Tahoe, 4.89" at Incline, 4.47" at Kings River Valley, 4.38 at Clover Valley near Wells, 4.31 at Vya, 4.18 at Glenbrook, 4.05 at Ruby Lake and 4.03" at Jarbidge, with only 6" of snowfall. 2.45" of Glenbrook's total occurred on the 12th, with 1.88" at Flanigan also on the 12th. Ruby Lake had 2.28" on the 30th.

At the McCoy Mine near Battle Mountain Michelle Pellini recorded measurable precipitation on 25 days during December! This "drizzliness" is more like western Oregon than Nevada.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were a little above normal during this normally cloudiest month of the year.

Most pans were stored for the winter, but evaporation was generally below normal, even in "dry" southern Nevada.

Wind speeds were relatively normal for early winter with gusts between 70 and 80mph in the East Slope Sierra Nevada windy sites, such as Minden, Sheridan Acres and Alpine View.

John W. James
State Climatologist

EUPHEMIA (FAMIE) PARKER has been the official weather observer at Manhatten for the past 12 years. She moved to this beautiful southern Toquima Mountain Range location 20 years ago after a 30 year stint in Hawthorne. The flash floods of summers 1981 and 1984, the "oodles of snow" of winter 1977-78, and the past few years winter warmth are three of her outstanding weather memories.

Due to her excellent record as a Nevada weather observer, Famie recieved a Governor's Proclamation a year ago.

Many thanks for being one of Nevada's most dependable observers, Famie!



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION DEC. 1995

